

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-02 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BENC, BEXP, GB

SUBJECT: TRANSGABON RAILROAD: ABANGA II VIADUCT CONTRACT TO
US FIRM

REF: 77 LIBREVILLE 1497

1. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT YARMOND INTERNATIONAL WILL
RECEIVE CONTRACT VALUED AT US DOLS 4.5 MILLION TO CONSTRUCT
ABANGA II VIADUCT ON TRANSGABON RAILROAD. CONTRACT HAS BEEN
SIGNED BY PRESIDENT BONGO, TRANSPORT MINISTER RAWIRI, AND
OCTRA DIRECTOR GENERAL TSIBAH: ONLY FINANCE MINISTER OKINDA'S
SIGNATURE IS STILL REQUIRED, AND OKINDA IS EXPECTED TO SIGN
THIS WEEK.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT EUROTRAG IS LESS THAN PLEASED OVER
AWARD TO US FIRM. CONTRACT APPARENTLY GRANTED ON TECHNICAL
REASONS AND CONTAINS TWO IMPORTANT CAVEATS: VIADUCT MUST BE
COMPLETED ON SCHEDULE AND WITHIN STATED PRICE RANGE.

3. COMMENT: TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THIS IS FIRST CONTRACT
AWARDED TO US FIRM FOR MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT IN
GABON AND HOPEFULLY WILL MARK BEGINNING OF PARTICIPATION
BY US FIRMS IN OTHER LARGE PROJECTS HERE. IF
YARMOND ABLE TO COMPLETE VIADUCT WITHIN TIME AND
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COST CONSTRAINTS, CONTRAST WITH PERFORMANCE BY EUROPEAN
FIRMS WILL BE OBVIOUS AND STRIKING. END COMMENT.

4. WE WILL ADVISE DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS WORD RECEIVED
ON FINAL SIGNATURE OF CONTRACT. YATES

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Message Attributes

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